

# The Olive Branch

October 5, 2022

## Accent on Worship

*Jim Bargmann*

**October 9, 2022**  
*18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after  
Pentecost, Lect. 28 C*  
2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c  
Psalm 111  
2 Timothy 2:8-15  
Luke 17:11-19

**October 16, 2022**  
*19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after  
Pentecost, Lect. 29 C*  
Genesis 32:22-31  
Psalm 121  
2 Timothy 3:14 – 4:5  
Luke 18:1-8

*In the  
presence of God.  
Being the  
presence of God.*

Two of this week's assigned readings focus on God's healing work... and the human struggle understanding that healing work. Luke recounts a story of healing, but also the uncertainty around the expected or appropriate response to healing. In the Old Testament reading, we read the story of Naaman, a Syrian military commander diagnosed with leprosy, who is introduced to the God of Israel by his wife's servant, herself a young Jewish woman captured during a military raid. She remarks that the God of Israel could heal Naaman through God's own prophet. Though a complicated exchange including the king of Israel, Naaman is put in contact with Elisha, the prophet referenced by his wife's servant. Naaman is given instructions on how to be healed. Naaman struggles with the instructions he is given, which he initially resists, and then relents and obeys. He is healed and comes to recognize the God of Israel, proclaiming, "Now I know that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel." A complicated and multilayered story, much like the overarching theme of these two readings: Healing is a complicated thing.

We struggle with this topic greatly. We have been given incredible knowledge and ability when it comes to health care and treatment, and recognize God's hand as working through doctors, nurses, researchers, lab technicians and more. And yet, some illnesses and injuries persist, causing pain, suffering, and yes, death. And we know and trust that God does indeed still perform miracles through those very same medical professionals, through the hands of non-medically trained people, and sometimes with no explanation at all.

We too, myself included, struggle like Naaman - what is it that is required of us - what is being asked of us for healing? Which hospital? Which doctor? Which treatment plan? Is this message from God or from elsewhere? Which river again?

*continued on page 2*

## **Accent on Worship, *continued from page 1***

These are very real questions that many of us in this community have dealt with in the recent past, and these issues are very real to my family now. This past week, we Nathan, Elizabeth, and I learned that someone very dear to us has been diagnosed with stage four esophageal cancer.

And then there is another aspect of this that is even more difficult to comprehend. Sometimes the healing is not there. The struggle, the pain continues. And people we love die. What then do we do? At least I find my own struggle is not so much like that of the lepers healed by Jesus - knowing how to respond when healing happens - but rather how to respond when it doesn't. It is easy, at least for me, to look at the Biblical record and think, "why not now? why not us?" It is easy for me to forget that there were many lepers who were not among those healed.

I wish that I could offer answers. That I cannot do. What I can say, dear friends, is that we are in this together. Let's continue to struggle together. Let's continue to seek answers together. Let's continue to wonder about our response to healing - and the lack of healing. And let us continue to love one another, support one another, walk with one another, until we realize the fulfillment of God's reign when we are promised complete healing.

- Jim Bargmann

## **October Neighborhood Ministries Partner of the Month: Central Lutheran Restoration Center**

Central Lutheran Restoration center is an integral part of the ministry at one of our sister congregations. The Restoration Center provides a welcoming place for people in downtown Minneapolis experiencing homelessness and economic insecurity. Those who come to the Restoration Center find a place of hospitality and welcome where they can find emergency rental assistance, employment services, clothing, meals, free-use computers, and basic health care services.

Mount Olive has chosen to support each of our Partners of the Month though a yearly contribution from our budget, but on top of that, we encourage any member who wishes to contribute over and above our budgeted amount to those partners doing work in their areas of passion and concern. You can do this using your offering envelopes or our online giving system. All additional contributions to our partner of the month will be distributed to the partner for the month in which the contribution is received.

For more information about the Central Lutheran Restoration Center, please visit their website at <https://www.centralmpls.org/community/restorationcenter>

## Calendar

### Wednesday, October 5

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting  
5:30 pm Children's Choir supper  
6:00 pm Children's Choir rehearsals  
7:00 pm Cantorei rehearsal

### Thursday, October 6

- 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

### Friday, October 7

- 7:00 pm Recovery group

### Saturday, October 8

- 10:00 am Book Discussion Group

### Sunday, October 9 - 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

- 8:00 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee & conversation  
9:30 am Education hour for all ages  
10:45 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee & conversation  
12:30 pm Y1 Confirmation

### Monday, October 10

- 7:00 pm Vestry meeting

### Tuesday, October 11

- Noon Bible Study

### Wednesday, October 12

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting  
5:30 pm Children's Choir supper  
6:00 pm Children's Choir rehearsals  
7:00 pm Cantorei rehearsal

## Missing Someone?

It's a frequent joke among church-going people that we like to sit in the same area of the church every Sunday - and sometimes in the same pew. So it wouldn't be unusual for us to notice that someone is missing from our area/pew - or from Coffee Hour - on Sunday morning. Perhaps we wonder where that person is - are they ill? Are they traveling? What is it that's keeping them from joining us for worship on Sunday morning? If you notice that someone from our Mount Olive community is missing, please feel empowered to reach out to them through a call, an email, or letter. If you need contact information, you can call the church office. Of course, some of us are shy Lutherans, and we'd prefer that someone else make that contact. That's okay - just call the office or email [conglife@mountolivechurch.org](mailto:conglife@mountolivechurch.org), and someone will reach out.

We are all the eyes and ears of the congregation, and the staff and the leadership depends on you to keep us informed of those who might otherwise fall through the cracks. Thanks!

## Adult Education

### *Upcoming Sunday Adult Forums (9:30 am in the Chapel Lounge)*

**Oct. 9: *The Impact of Grief & Loss*** - The experience of grief and loss affects us in a comprehensive manner. Our bodies, minds, and spirits are all changed by the experience. And not all losses are as obvious as others. Thomas Ellis, a Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist at Crocus Hill Counseling Center in St. Paul will be our presenter. He is the author of *This Thing Called Grief* and has presented to many area congregations on the topic of grief and loss.

**Oct. 16: *Review of Mount Olive 2023 Budget*** - In preparation for the Congregation Meeting on October 23, this forum will give you an opportunity to review the proposed budget for 2023 and ask any questions you may have.

**J**  
wonder...  
**GODLY  
PLAY**

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This Coming Week, We Will Wonder:

Circle One: Abram and Sarai (The Great Family)  
Circle Two: The Flood & The Ark

I wonder what conversations you will have at home!

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Please note that we hold Godly Play every Sunday at 9:30am!

(Note: There will be no Godly Play on November 27, 2022.)

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## Mount Olive Music & Fine Arts Presents Consortium Carissimi

*Sunday, October 16, 2022 - 4:00 pm*

This program will be the secular music of Dowland and Gesualdo. The Consortium is an early music ensemble with ten singers and lutes, theorbos, baroque guitars, baroque harp and viola de basse, and lirone. Led by director Garrick Comeaux.

This event will coincide with the Twin Cities Early Music Festival 2022. Don't miss it!

A reception will follow.



## Concert to Honor Refugees

"*The Stranger*," a large scale choral and orchestral work intended to raise awareness about the plight of refugees around the world, will have its US premiere on Saturday and Sunday, October 15-16 at the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts in St. Paul. The Minneapolis-based Together In Hope Choir premiered the work composed by Kim André Arnesen at Olavsfest in Trondheim, Norway, in July.

*The Stranger* was commissioned by the Together In Hope Project. The text was inspired by work done by UNHCR (the UN Refugee Agency) that confirmed all major faith traditions throughout the world share a common ethic of protection, hospitality, and respect for the stranger. More than 100 million people worldwide have been forced to flee their homes, the highest level of displacement on record. Mount Olive, along with other churches, has stepped up to help care for these people and welcome them as family.

Together In Hope Project set an ambitious goal to have 50% of the audiences (both Saturday and Sunday) represented by newcomers in the community – that's about 1,000 underwritten tickets across both performances. Community organizations working with refugees and immigrants here in Minneapolis-St. Paul are coordinating distribution of these guest tickets.

Members of Mount Olive are invited to buy tickets at [ordway.org](http://ordway.org) and support Together In Hope Project as they bring attention to the plight of refugees around the world through music. These concerts aim to create a welcome space where we can be in community and share a powerful message of "Welcome!"

### U.S. Premiere of *THE STRANGER*

Sat., Oct. 15, 7:30 PM

Sun., Oct 16, 3:30 PM

Ordway Center for the Performing Arts

Tickets - <https://ordway.org/events/together-in-hope-project-the-stranger>



SAVE THE DATE AND LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE! JOIN US FOR...

*Trust Inc's "Starlight Gala & Silent Auction"*

November 04, 2022  
5:30 - 9:00 p.m.  
\$30.00/person

St John's  
Episcopal Church

4201 Sheridan Avenue S.  
Minneapolis MN 55410  
a mobility-friendly facility



## Tuesday Noon Bible Study Link

The Tuesday Noon Bible Study is meeting in person, in the West Lounge. For those who are unable to come in person, we will continue to hold the meeting over Zoom as well.

The link for the Tuesday noon Bible study will be the same every week. To join from your computer, tablet, or smartphone, [click here](#).

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## Book Discussion

For its October 8 meeting, the Book Discussion group will read the trilogy *The Forsythe Saga*, by John Galsworthy, and on November 12 they will read *Matrix*, by Lauren Groff. The Book Discussion group meets on the second Saturday of each month at 10 am at church. All readers are welcome!

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## Mark Your Calendars for these October Activities!

- **Sunday, Oct. 16, 9:30 a.m.** - Proposed (for 2023) Budget Review Meeting
- **Sunday, Oct. 16, 4:00 pm** - Mount Olive Music & Fine Arts presents Consortium Carissimi
- **Sunday, October 30, Noon** - Semi-Annual Congregation Meeting, followed by *Oktoberfest!*

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## Treats Needed for Sunday Morning Coffee Hour

We in need of folks to sign up to supply treats for Sunday morning coffee hour after worship. You don't have to make coffee - our wonderful Sexton, Jose, does that and he even washes the dishes afterwards! What's needed are treats - and store-bought cookies are just fine! It doesn't need to be fancy! Your job would be to bring the treats, arrange them on our platters/plates, and put them out for people to take.

Look for the sign-up near the coffee line in the East Assembly Room, or call the office to get your name and date in. Questions? Contact Lora at [conglife@mountolivechurch.org](mailto:conglife@mountolivechurch.org).

## **New Volunteer Roles in Neighborhood Ministry**

We are expanding our volunteer corps within Neighborhood Ministry to better match the needs of the community at this time. Please read through the following brief descriptions and see if you might be interested in serving in any of these roles. Necessary training will, of course, be provided.

### ***Call Assistant***

The Call Assistant is a work-from-home volunteer role. Our new phone system allows many remote work options that can even include volunteers. This person or people would sign up for blocks of time that work within each person's schedule. During these blocks of time, volunteers would take calls from neighbors looking for assistance and screen those calls for the type of assistance needed. These volunteers would be trained to meet some basic needs over the phone and will be able to schedule appointments with Jim for more complex needs. Volunteers interested in this role should have a smart phone and computer and feel comfortable with the basic operations of both. If you feel comfortable shopping online and using an online calendar, you have the necessary skills for this role. Volunteers would use their own equipment, but because of the technology available in our new phone system, only the Mount Olive phone number would be available to neighbors looking for assistance, ensuring the privacy of volunteers serving in this role.

### ***Rental Assistance Intake Volunteer***

Though our membership in the Align Minneapolis collaborative, Mount Olive can help to provide rental payment assistance to neighbors who have fallen behind on their rent and thereby, work to keep people housed despite financial difficulty. A rental assistance intake volunteer would work with applicants in completing applications and copying documentation. This role would involve signing up for blocks of time at Mount Olive on either Tuesdays or Thursdays, but times are flexible and can accommodate individual schedules.

### ***Food Donation Assistant***

While Mount Olive does not have its own food program, we maintain a strategic partnership with Community Emergency Service (CES), one of our neighborhood food programs. As a service to members and friends of Mount Olive, we occasionally collect non-perishable food at our location. Over the course of time, those donations build up and need to be transported to CES. The Food Donation Assistant would do just that - come to Mount Olive, collect any food donations, and transport them to CES twice a month. Food can be picked up from Mount Olive on Sunday mornings or any weekday between 8:00 am and 3:00 pm, however, donations must be dropped off at CES weekdays between 9:00 am and noon. Within those guidelines, however, volunteers in this role can choose their own schedule.

If you are interested in learning more about any of these opportunities, please contact Coordinator of Neighborhood Ministry Jim Bargmann at [neighborhood@mountolivechurch.org](mailto:neighborhood@mountolivechurch.org). Simply sending an email will not commit you to anything other than a conversation at this point!



## Fighting Poverty with Diplomas in Guatemala with Common Hope

Mount Olive partners with Common Hope, a nonprofit that is fighting poverty with diplomas in Guatemala. Common Hope recognizes that education is the key to ending the cycle of poverty and creating long-term change. Our programs focus on families and removing barriers that may hinder students from graduating.

As a Faith Community Partner, Mount Olive is committed to the mission of Common Hope to break the cycle of poverty in Guatemala. Mount Olive members sponsor five students in Guatemala and members have also traveled to Guatemala with Common Hope on volunteer trips called Vision Teams where they have walked alongside families and staff to learn about Guatemalan culture and Common Hope's work while also volunteering their skills and talents in Common Hope programs.

September 15-October 15 is Sponsorpalooza! Join fellow church members and sponsor a student in need. Students need support now more than ever as they return to the classroom after two years of remote learning. New sponsorships before Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> will have their donations matched through the end of 2022.

**Visit the Common Hope table on October 9<sup>th</sup> between services to learn more about the trailblazing students in Guatemala from Common Hope staff!**

As a sponsor, you can provide students with motivation and encouragement to persevere. You can *Be The Hope!* Visit [www.commonhope.org/sponsorpalooza](http://www.commonhope.org/sponsorpalooza) to learn more about sponsoring a student.



*Mark and Lisa Ruff visiting their sponsored students and their families last week in Guatemala!*





## Property Update

### *East Parking Lot Refinished*

Have you noticed the refreshed east parking area along the alley? Who knew that a concrete pad could be a thing of beauty? But it is! Thanks to our Sexton, Jose Morocho and his concrete crew, they worked with Ames Construction to demo and replace the ailing asphalt surface with concrete on Saturday, September 24. This work now means that the water coming off the roof runs away from the building and stops the damage that was being done to the exterior brick and interior walls in the lower level. One of the next projects will be to repair that damage.



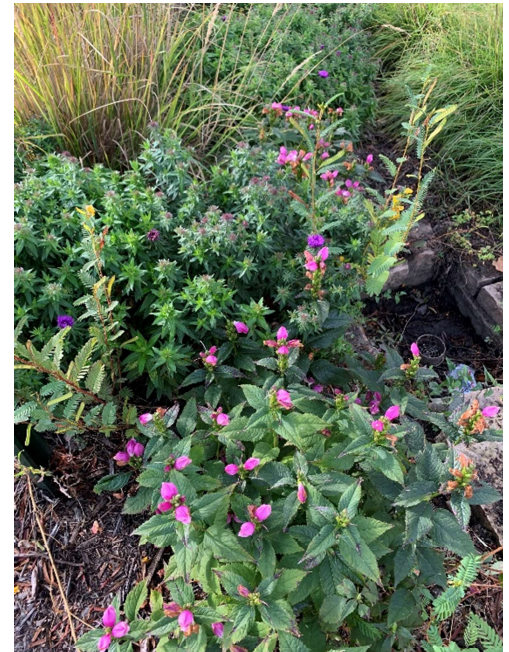
### *Phone Transition Complete*

The transition to a new phone system is complete. Not only does the new system give the staff more flexibility and features, but we also have our own hold music played by our Cantor! You may be familiar with it - "You are Holy," (Per Harling). When you call the office, listen carefully to the extension numbers for the staff since they may be different. If you have any questions or problems with the new system, please let the office know.

### *Fall Garden Clean Up - All Hands Needed!*

Our gardens have graced us with beautiful flowers all spring, summer, and early fall. But it is time to begin the work of tucking the gardens in for the winter. This work includes cleanup of summer foliage, trimming of bushes, and planting of the red tulip bulbs by the church sign.

If you are able, please join the working group on Saturday, October 15, or October 29. We start at 9:00 am.



# Mount Olive Octoberfest

**Following the Semi-Annual Meeting  
October 30 in the Undercroft**

*Brats, Beer and all the Fixins'*

*Go to the following link to sign up to bring German Potato  
Salad, Bars, or to help in the kitchen!*

[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F054AAFAF2FABF49  
-octoberfest](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F054AAFAF2FABF49-octoberfest)





## *In Our Prayers*

**Please pray throughout the week for the following persons:** Julia Adams; Joe & Elizabeth Beissel; Nancy Flatgard; Leila Froehlich; Leanna Kloempken; Mary Lee; Steve Lenius; Carla Manuel; Carolyn Mowery; Rhoda Nelson; Jerry Ostlund; Russ Pearson; Robin Rayfield; Pariann Schenk; Pat Spaulding; James Wilkes; Rhonda Fish, friend of Andrew Andersen; Gerry Coleman, friend of Jim Bargmann; Cassandra Thompson, friend of Al Bostelmann; Sara Brunette, daughter-in-law of CJ Brunette; Arthur Kaemmer, friend of David Bryce; Lela Frazier, sister of Irene Campbell; Mattisyn, friend of Kat Campbell Johnson; Marilyn Volker, sister of Allen Dundek; Greg Eklund, son of Harry & Jeanette Eklund; Joyce Schoenfield, sister of Marilyn Gebauer; Joe & Brenda Patnaude, friends of Tom Graves & Ginny Agresti; David G. Gutierrez, Sr., Chris and David Gutierrez, Jr., father and brothers of Consuelo Gutierrez-Crosby; Carol Halter (missionary in Hong Kong), friend of Eunice Hafemeister; Cat Robinette, friend of Emily Hellerich; Ethan Holtmeier, grandson of Patsy & John Holtmeier; Steve Horsfield, friend of Mount Olive; Tami Huisinga, relative of Wes Huisinga; Michael Uthe, friend of Mary Rose Kaliher; Louis Krohnfeldt, former member of Mount Olive; Kevin Lyndsley, former Mount Olive member; Barbara Dahl, sister of Carla Manuel; Dani Olson and Harper Linqvist, relatives of Julie Manuel; Jan McCuen, mother of Matt McCuen; Brad Krider, friend of Rachel Meurett; Martha Johnson, sister of Rhoda Nelson and aunt of Sherry Nelson; Stan & Darlene Nelson, parents of Brad Nelson; Tim Gaudineer, relative of George & Marlys Oelfke; Kathleen Austad, sister of Jerry Ostlund; Steve Swanson, friend of Dwight Penas & Kathy Thurston; Vince DeLusia and Chris Hoff, friend and cousin of Cynthia Prosek; Jolie Melana Meshbesh, friend of Robin Rayfield; Leila Jeffers, mother of Lynn and Lisa Ruff; Miranda Alvis, niece of Tim Sneer; Carrie, friend of Paul & Melissa Stone; David Duran, friend of Kevin Vazquez;

Andrew Wiechman, son of Grace Wiechman; Pat Faunce, friend of Eric Zander; Barbara C. Johnson, friend of Mount Olive.

**In hospice care:** Lillian Olson.

**Prayers for all in the health care system** here and around the world who put their lives at risk to care for those infected with COVID 19 and caring for all others who are ill as well.

### *About our prayer list ...*

*If you have submitted a name or names to be published on our prayer list, please review the list regularly, to make sure those for whom we are praying are still in need of our prayers. Contact the church office with any updates.*

## Mount Olive Lutheran Church

3045 Chicago Avenue  
Minneapolis, MN 55407

*A congregation of the Evangelical  
Lutheran Church in America*

### Sunday Eucharists: 8 & 10:45 am

#### Contact Us

Phone: 612-827-5919

On the Web: [mountolivechurch.org](http://mountolivechurch.org)

#### Staff

Pastor – *Joseph Crippen*

Cantor – *David Cherwien*

Vicar – *Mollie Hamre*

Coordinator of Neighborhood Ministry –  
*Jim Bargmann*

Administrative Assistant – *Cha Posz*

Sexton – *Jose Morocho*

*Mount Olive is a Reconciling in Christ  
congregation.*

## The National Lutheran Choir's All Saints Concerts

### *Live Concerts: "Life Changed, not Taken Away"*

Through our annual All Saints Program, we will honor those who have passed while recognizing our past, present, and future journeys. This program will feature John Rutter's iconic work, *Requiem*, along with hymns, candles, and the reading of names of our new saints.

**Friday, November 4 - 7:30pm: St. Philip the Deacon Lutheran Church, Plymouth, MN**

**Sunday, November 6 - 4:00pm: St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Mahtomedi, MN**

Adults and seniors: \$33 | Students (with valid ID): Pay what you can | 18 and Under: Free  
Visit [NLCA.com](http://NLCA.com) to purchase tickets or learn more.

### *Virtual Program: "The Journey Home"*

This program will feature selections from NLC's 1995 recording, *Soul*, with soloist Tom Tipton including Edward Bairstow's "I Sat Down Under His Shadow," David Mennicke's arrangement of "Down in the River to Pray," Charles Stanford's "Beati Quorum Via," and others – highlighting the spiritual connection between heaven and earth, and the hope this connection brings all of humanity.

Available to all beginning Saturday, November 5. Watch at [NLCA.com](http://NLCA.com).